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Presented were problems of Ohio migrant workers, mostly Texans of Mexican background, whose children were deficient in educational growth. The growth of the summer school program began in 1957 with an investigation that pointed out the need of such schools for migrant children. In 1958, two summer school classes were held; in 1959, the two classes were continued; in 1960, nine classes were held; and in 1961, 27 classes were held. The growth of day-care centers, which was similar to the growth of the summer school classes, began in 1957 when 35 children were cared for in the first day-care center financed by United States Children's Bureau funds. Quotes from seven reports on summer schools and day-care centers for migrant children indicated that though the programs were needed and were liked, it was becoming exceedingly difficult to provide opportunities because of the increasing mobility of the farm laborer.					
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HOW OHIO HELPS MIGRANT CHILDREN

ED002 07



GROWTH

PROGRESS

1957 - 1961

ELIZABETH S. MAGEE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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THE PROBLEMS OF OHIO MIGRANT WORKERS

There are 12,000 to 15,000 migrants who come into Ohio each year to help with the planting and harvesting of tomatoes, sugar beets, cherries, corn and the so-called "muck crops," vegetables growing in mud and requiring the hardest kind of "stoop labor."

For the most part these people are Texans of Mexican background, many of them Spanish speaking, and usually traveling as a family group with children of all ages. Their work is essential to the economy of the state, but too often only their work seems to be important to the community, which fails to recognize the needs of the people themselves.

Education for their children falls behind even the limited amount the parents have had, as the children work or travel when they should be in school and no provision is made for the care of small children when both parents must work in the fields.

AN AWAKENING PUBLIC CONCERN FOR THE PLIGHT OF THESE WORKERS AND A FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SCHOOLING FOR THEIR CHILDREN AT A TIME WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO RECEIVE IT HAS LED TO . . .

GROWTH IN SCHOOLS

1957. An investigation by Miss Phila Humphreys of the Ohio Department of Education pointed up the needs of these children for a summer school program.

1958. 2 classes held in Ottawa County at the first pilot summer school financed by the Elizabeth S. Magee Foundation and the United Church Women of Ohio.

1959. 2 classes continued under the same financing. Enrollment increased from 36 to 74 children.

1960. 9 classes were held in Ottawa, Fulton and Putnam Counties financed by the special school appropriation passed in the 1959 legislature. All schools were reported successful with a total of 207 children enrolled.

1961. 27 classes were held in Fulton, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties as word about the summer schools spread. 695 migrant children benefitted from these special classes tailored to their needs for remedial work and instruction in English.

*Six-year-olds
in migrant classes
are proud of
their work*



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Play Time

*County nurse visits
Day-Care
Center*



*Migrant parents enjoy
the work of their youngsters
at migrant summer school*

MIGRANT FAMILIES HAVE SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH DAY CARE SERVICES CAN HELP ALLEVIATE. UNLESS SOME PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE CARE OF THESE CHILDREN, THEY MAY BE FORCED TO STAY IN AUTOMOBILES, OR BESIDE THEIR MOTHERS IN THE FIELDS . . . THIS YEAR HAS SEEN . . .

GROWTH IN DAY-CARE CENTERS

1957. 35 children cared for in the Curtice Day-Care Center for the Children of Migrants, in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oregon, Lucas County, run by the Lucas County Child Welfare Board.

This was the first day-care center to be financed by U. S. Children's Bureau funds through the Ohio Department of Public Welfare. It has continued in operation each summer from 1957 through 1961 . . .

1961. 60 children cared for at Curtice Day-Care Center.

31 children attended Bono Day-Care Center held at Mt. Carmel Church in Lucas County.

20 children in the Day-Care Center at Wauseon in Fulton County.

23 at Eastwood Migrant School in Wood County.

41 Negro children at the Hartville Child Care Center for migrant children in Stark County. The Elizabeth S. Magee Foundation called attention to the need for a Day-Care Center in this area and made contributions for play equipment for the project.

QUOTES FROM REPORTS ON SUMMER SCHOOLS AND DAY CARE CENTERS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN / 1961

OLD FORT. "Considerable time was spent on the geography of Ohio and the geography of Texas. Maps were used to trace the route of the migrants from their homes in Texas. Since they are forced to ride night and day in the back of a covered truck, they do not observe the area traveled."

ALLEN CENTRAL. "The migrant children have deserved everything we do for them. They are happy with us and seem unhappy to leave."

JENNINGS LOCAL SCHOOL. "Since employment is seasonal, one must expect workers to seek employment wherever it can be found. They have become more truly migrant than ever before. They move more frequently. Parents of the children in the migrant class at Fort Jennings delayed their move for several days to keep their children in the school program. They were cooperative and interested. These people need education. They recognize the need up to a point. It is becoming increasingly difficult to meet their needs because of their increasing mobility. The problems are many and complex. I believe the migrant classes in Putnam County have been worthwhile."

WILLARD CITY. "This class proved to be very successful. There is a great improvement in the pupils who attended."

EASTWOOD MIGRANT SCHOOL AND DAY-CARE PROGRAM. "What effect did the program have on the lives of the children? We can see some change in just about all of them. In those who came to the program extremely fearful and shy, it is particularly obvious. Many of these are now bright and cheerful. Others who started out with "chips" on their shoulders are beginning to play a bit more cooperatively. In still others, the effect may be hidden for a time, later to show itself. We cannot know the full effect. We may only use all the knowledge we can bring to bear, all the horse sense and all the love, and pray that our labor may bring fruit."

DAY-CARE CENTER AT BONG. "Only a very few of the children could speak English when they were first enrolled so that the teacher's job was particularly difficult. But they did learn to communicate and by the end of the program, many of the children were beginning to speak some English."

CURTICE DAY-CARE CENTER. "Many things have been accomplished. Children have been well cared for, well fed, and happy; health care has been provided including immunization; much needed recreation activities have been provided; extra schooling has been made available in addition to opportunities offered by the project... Within the migrant group, race barriers between teenage Mexican and Puerto Rican youths have been dissolved and swept away in the joy of wholesome recreation. And many of the migrants have learned that they have friends in the community who are interested in them as people and not just for the work they can do. Many families have remained in the community and have sent their children to the public schools. Some of these children have been outstanding in their scholarship and are respected among their peers."

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